

releasing money, do not indicate any cases of large scale corruption and payoffs to middle men under various poverty alleviation programmes.

(c) and (d) Apart from seeking Audit Reports from Chartered Accountants and periodic audit of the DRDAs by the Pay and Accounts Division of the Ministry of Rural Development and by the C&AG, it is also mandatory for the DRDAs to furnish certificates regarding non-embezzlement, non-diversion of funds etc. Vigilance and Monitoring Committees have also been formed at the Block, District and State levels to oversee the implementation of the various Rural Development Programmes. The Governing Body of the DRDAs, which approves the projects to be implemented at the grass root level also oversees clean distribution and implementation of these developmental programmes. The Area Officers Scheme, under which senior officers of the Ministry of Rural Development visit the rural areas for an on the spot assessment of the implementation of the Rural Development Schemes, is also meant to ensure proper implementation of the programmes.

Self-employment of disadvantaged sections of rural areas

1180. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan for the rural youth, Women, SCs, STs and other disadvantaged sections of the rural areas to make them self-employed and wage employable, being implemented or proposed to be implemented by his Ministry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) and (b) The schemes being implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development for the benefit of persons Below the Poverty Line (BPL) including the rural youth, women, Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and other disadvantaged sections in rural areas for self-employment and wage-employment are:

- (i) The Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), a scheme for self-employment of the rural poor.
- (ii) The Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), a scheme for wage employment.
- (iii) The Jawahar Gram Smaridhi Yojana (JGSY), a scheme for Infrastructure Development at the village level.

The JGSY aims at creating need based rural infrastructure at the village level to boost the rural economy in general and improvement in the quality of life in particular. Priority has been given to develop infrastructure for SC/ST habitations. 22.5% of the annual allocation has been earmarked for SCs/STs individual beneficiary schemes for families below poverty line and 30% of the employment opportunities are reserved for women.

The primary objective of the EAS is creation of additional wage-employment opportunities during the period of acute shortage of wage-employment through manual work for the rural poor living below the poverty line. The secondary objective is the creation of durable community, social and economic assets for sustained employment and development. The EAS is open to all rural poor who are in need of wage employment. While providing employment, preference shall be given to SCs/STs and parents of child labour withdrawn from hazardous occupations who are below the poverty line.

The EAS & the JGSY have been merged and a new scheme namely, the Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), for the wage employment of the rural poor has been launched w.e.f. 25.9.2001. During the current financial year the JGSY and the EAS will continue as part of the SGRY, with which, these schemes would stand fully integrated from the next financial year onwards. The requisite funds and appropriate quantities of food grains on account of the new scheme have been provided, this year, in the EAS and the JGSY.

The objective of the SGSY is to bring the assisted poor families (Swarozgaris) above the poverty line by providing them income

generating assets through a mix of bank credit and the Government subsidy. The SGSY particularly focus on the disadvantaged sections of the rural poor and safeguards have been provided by way of reserving 50% benefits for SCs/STs, 40% for women, and 3% for persons with disability.

73rd Constitution Amendment Act

1181. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of States where the 73rd Constitution Amendment Act, 1992 has been extended to their scheduled area;
- (b) whether it is a fact that this Act can benefit the grass root village level more than that of the Sixth Schedule extended in the Scheduled Areas; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) The provisions of Panchayats have been extended to the Schedule-V Areas of the States, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Rajasthan.

(b) and (c) The provisions of the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 devolve greater powers on institution of self-Government than the powers enjoyed by the Autonomous Councils in the Sixth Schedule Areas. This Act benefits the village councils at grass-root levels by providing additional benefits, namely, (a) constitution of Gram Panchayats (b) election to the Gram Panchayats (c) reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes at every level of Panchayats (d) setting up of State Finance Commission to make recommendations for distribution of taxes, tolls and duties between the State and Panchayats, and (e) devolution of powers upon Panchayats including in respect of 29 subjects listed in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution.

CAPART assistance to rural artisans of North-Eastern States

1182. SHRI KARNEDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: